

City of Augusta, Maine
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

AUGUSTA STATE AIRPORT
CODE ENFORCEMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



ENGINEERING
FACILITIES & SYSTEMS
PLANNING

Memo

To: Planning Board

From: Matt Nazar, Director of Development Services

Date: October 6, 2016

Re: Secure Forensic Facility

The city has received a letter from the Commissioner of DHHS as well as the consultant, Stantec, regarding the nature of the use of the facility. The facility will be licensed by DHHS as a Residential Care Facility Level IV, which the Augusta Land Use Ordinance classifies as a Group Home. Group Homes are a permitted use in the BP zoning district where the proposal is located.

City staff members have confirmed with Corporation Counsel that the existing moratorium does not affect this proposal because it was submitted on August 12, 2016, while the moratorium was passed on August 18, 2016. The moratorium didn't show up on a public agenda until August 15, 2016, so there's no way the applicant was aware a moratorium was coming.

The facility is proposed to be located adjacent to the existing Riverview facility. It is a locked facility housing individuals that have been found not criminally responsible for their actions, but no longer need hospital care, and have not been approved by the court system for release. Interior plans for the facility have been provided and full construction details on the proposal are available at the Development Services office.

A board member asked how far away the CARA fields are from the proposed facility. The straight line distance is over 2,200 feet (nearly a half mile) to the closest field.